

# UTAH STATE VETERANS BENEFITS FACT SHEET

Serving Utah's 170,000 Veterans  
UPDATED April 2013

Published by:  
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Veterans' Affairs*  
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(Note: Summaries have been composed describing Utah State Veterans Benefits by paraphrasing essential excerpts of the Utah State Code. For complete legal information consult the legal code.)

## **DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX**

**ABATEMENT:** A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax abatement using the military service-connected disability rating percentage is provided for disabled veterans or for their un-remarried widows or minor orphans. The Veteran's disability rating must be at least 10% in order to use this abatement. The maximum property tax abatement, rated at 100% military service-connected disability, is \$244,064. To figure out how much your tax abatement will be multiply your percentage of disability by 244,064. Example: 10% disability X 244,064 = \$24,406.40 tax abatement. This amount is then subtracted from the taxable value of the property and taxes are paid on the remaining amount. To apply for Utah Disabled Veterans Property Tax Abatement, request a **Summary of Benefits Letter from U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA)** at 1-800-827-1000. Submit the Summary of Benefits Letter with a completed Property Tax Abatement application, **on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>**, to the applicable county treasurer, tax assessor or clerk/recorder located in the county courthouse or county government building of the appropriate county seat. All property must be on record as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year you wish to file. However, a recent change allows qualified widows and orphans an exemption to that rule. NOTE: Effective January 1, 2008 disabled

veterans will only be required to file for property tax abatement one time. After the initial filing it will automatically renew each year. However, veterans will have to re-file if all or a portion of their abatement is used towards tangible personal property, if their service-connected disability percentage changes, the veteran dies, sales the property or no longer claims that property as their primary place of residence. (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105)

## **Purple Heart Tuition Waiver:**

Utah public institutions of higher learning are required to waive the tuition of a Utah resident admitted to an undergraduate program of study leading to a degree or certificate, if the student is a recipient of a Purple Heart. **Recent changes have expanded this benefit to include a Graduate Degree.** (Utah Code 53B-8-101)

## **Scott B. Lundell Tuition Waiver for Military Members' Surviving Dependents**

This bill waives the undergraduate tuition at state institutions of higher education for surviving dependents of Utah resident military members killed in the line of duty after 9/11/2001. The waiver in this section does not apply to fees, books, or housing expenses. The Utah Department of Veterans Affairs is the administering agency for this benefit. Call 1-800-894-9497 or (801) 326-2372 for information on how to use this benefit. (Utah Code 53B-8-107)

## **Honorary High School Diplomas**

Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam who left High School for military service may be eligible to receive Honorary High School Diplomas from the local school that they left. Contact the local school district for information on how to receive the diploma. (Utah Code 53A-3-426)

**VETERANS UPWARD BOUND:** VUB is funded by the Department of Education and sponsored by Weber State University. VUB provides a valuable service by assisting veterans in obtaining admission to post-secondary schools. Instruction and tutoring are provided free of charge to veterans in math, English and basic computer applications. The services are provided to veterans in Salt Lake, Davis and Weber Counties. For more information, please contact 801-626-7173.

**DRIVERS LICENSE PRIVILEGES:** Driver licenses possessed by persons on U.S. military active duty shall be valid 90 days after active duty discharge, unless driver licenses are suspended or revoked for cause by a police department or other judicial entity. (Utah Code 53-3-205)

**Veteran Status on Utah Drivers License and Utah ID's:** Veterans can now have "VETERAN" printed on their state issued driver licenses or State ID cards. In order to have this accomplished, go into any state Drivers License and ID office and indicate on the application for these cards that you are a Veteran. You must have served on active duty and have an Honorable Discharge. Provide a DD-214 or a Report of Separation for World War II Veterans. Verification is required. All renewal fees are still applicable. (Utah Code 53-3-804)

**VETERANS LICENSE PLATES:** Utah Veterans license plates may be purchased from any DMV for an initial \$25.00 contribution to the Utah State Department of Veterans Affairs plus a \$10.00 plate transfer fee, in addition to normal vehicle registration and property tax fees. There will also be a yearly \$10.00 renewal fee. The proceeds from the sale and renewal of these plates assist in the funding of Veterans programs within the state. Utah Veterans license plates display colored decal emblems of the U.S. military branch in which served (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as the American Legion) and are further inscribed "**UTAH HONORS VETERANS**". Utah special group license plates for Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors or, former POW's are exempt from application and renewal fees; however, regular registration fees and property taxes must still be paid. Proper evidence to present for a special group plate includes a Military Order of the Purple Heart or Pearl Harbor Survivors Association membership card, or DD-214/Military Discharge certificate. A "Disabled Veteran" plate is also available for Veterans with a service-connected disability. This plate has a one-time \$15 fee and no additional renewal fees. Military documentation or VA Summary of Benefits letter must be presented to prove eligibility for this plate. **NOTE:** This Plate does not qualify for disabled parking privileges. (Utah Code 41-1a-418 thru 422)

**Purple Heart Fee Exemption:**

Effective 4/30/07, a recipient of a **Purple Heart** is exempt from paying the following motor vehicle license and registration fees: automobile driver education fee; motor vehicle registration fee; license plate issuance fees; uninsured motorist identification fee; and local option transportation corridor preservation fee. The only fee due is property tax or age-based fee. (Utah Code 41-1a-1211)

**DISABLED LICENSE PLATES / WINDSHIELD**

**PLACARDS:** Disabled license plates having the blue & white international symbol of accessibility decal may be obtained by submitting a TC 842 application form, accompanied by a certification from a licensed physician stating: (1) the disability limits or impairs ability to walk as defined in the 1991 Federal Uniform System for Handicapped Parking, and (2) the time period the physician determines the disability will continue. **Disabled veterans applying for Utah disability license plates should note that veteran disability letters from the VA Regional Office are *not* acceptable evidence** to Tax Commission/Motor Vehicle offices. However, **licensed physician certifications by VA doctors are acceptable evidence**, provided the following is stated in the letter: (1) the disability limits or impairs ability to walk as defined in the 1991 Federal Uniform System for Handicapped Parking, and (2) the time period the physician determines the disability will continue. Normal fees for plate transfer, registration, and property taxes still must be paid upon initial application and renewal of disability license plates. Upon request, one additional disability windshield placard may be issued to disabled persons applying for or already possessing disability special group license plates. For more information, telephone toll-free 800-DMV-UTAH. (Utah Code 41-1a-420)

**VETERANS JOB REPRESENTATIVES:** Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Person (DVOP) are located statewide in various employment offices of the Utah Department of Workforce Services. They provide intensive employment related services for targeted veterans: referral to job opportunities, resume writing, referral letters, veteran's preference, employment counseling, etc. **Please see attached list of Veteran Representatives.**

**VETERANS JOB PREFERENCE:** Eligible veterans or un-remarried spouses are granted either 5 or 10 points, as applicable, for employment preference. These points are added to the results of any written and/or oral exam or other related qualifying technique, by any Utah government entity (state, county, municipality, special district or other political subdivision or administration). The U.S. Dept. of Labor will protect the veteran's right to the Veterans Job Preference. (Utah Code 71-10-2)

**VETERANS HIRING PRIORITY:** Any officers, agents or representatives of the state, or any contractor performing work for the Utah state government, who willfully fails to hire a military veteran shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Utah Code 71-10-3)

**MILITARY LEAVE:** Utah state, county or municipal government employees, who are members of the organized reserve/ National Guard, are allowed full pay\* for 15 days of military leave per year for annual military encampment. Military leave is in addition to and distinguished from annual accrued vacation leave with pay. (Utah Code 39-3-2 and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act) \*Some exceptions apply; see local Human Resources Rep for details

**VETERANS REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS:** Veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserves may be eligible for reemployment with their civilian employers if they meet certain requirements under the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA also provides protection against discrimination in employment because of service in the uniformed services (US Code Title 38, chap 43). Inquiries regarding reemployment rights should be directed to the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment & Training Services. Phone number: (801) 524-5703. (Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act)

#### **UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**

**AFFAIRS:** The mission of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs (UDVA) office is to provide counsel, assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims processing, establish veterans' rights to state and federal benefits, and to provide information and advisory services. Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are contracted to provide an outreach assistance program to rural Utah

veterans, in conjunction with the Utah State Department of Veterans Affairs. **U.S. active duty military service discharge certificates (DD-214's) are on file in the office for veterans discharged after 1980, and some records for WWII and Korean era veterans. DD-214's are only on file for veterans with Utah residency or with a Utah forwarding address at the time of release from active duty.** Certified copies of DD-214 documents are provided free of charge. The Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper Utah maintains file copies of National Guard Bureau record of separation certificates (NGB 22 forms) for completed service in the Utah Army National Guard & Utah Air National Guard (1950-present). NGB 22 certified copies are free of charge; phone 801-523-4534. (Utah Codes 39-1 and 71-8)

#### **UTAH STATE VETERANS NURSING HOMES:**

Quality nursing and health care services are provided for Utah Veterans with U.S. military service during peacetime or wartime. While wartime service is not a requirement for admission to the nursing home, wartime veterans with one day or more of wartime service, as recognized by state and federal laws, have top priority. A veteran's spouse or surviving spouse may also qualify for admittance to the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home, providing the marriage to the veteran occurred at least one year before the application. The current locations of Veterans Nursing homes in the state of Utah are:

William E. Christofferson  
Salt Lake Veterans Home  
700 Foothill Drive  
SLC, UT 84113-1104  
Phone 801-584-1900

George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home  
1102 North 1200 West  
Ogden, UT 84404  
Phone: 801-334-4300

Central Utah Veterans Home  
(Opening in summer 2013)  
1551 North Main Street  
Payson, UT 84651

Southern Utah Veterans Home  
(Opening in summer 2013)  
160 North 200 East  
Ivins, UT 84738

**UTAH STATE VETERANS CEMETERY & MEMORIAL PARK:**

The Utah State Veterans Cemetery generally follows the eligibility requirements of the VA National Cemetery System, including: any U.S. Armed Forces active personnel dying while performing duty or after having served during wartime. Reservist and National Guard retired personnel with 20 years of service are eligible for burial also. Surviving spouses and dependent children are also eligible to be buried in the Utah State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park, under rules established by the state of Utah. (Utah Code 71-7-3)

**America the Beautiful Pass:** A lifetime entrance pass to most national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. The Passport admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. Where entry is not by private vehicle, the passport admits the pass holder, spouse, and children. The Pass **MAY** also provides a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, and cave tours. It does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. A Pass must be obtained in person at any federal area where an entrance fee is charged or at one of the agencies administering the Pass. It is available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled. Veterans may obtain a passport by showing proof of a medically determined permanent disability or eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law. A letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs stating the veteran's disability rating will suffice. Agencies administering the Pass are Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and Forest Service.

**FISHING LICENSE PRIVILEGE:** The State of Utah offers a discounted fishing license for Disabled Utah Veterans with a minimum service connected disability rating of 40%. To file, a Veteran must submit a disability rating letter from the VA Showing a 40% or higher Service Connected disability to any Utah Division of Wildlife Office. Call: (801) 538-4700 for more information. (Utah Code 23-19-38.3)

**SPECIAL FUN TAGS:** The Special Fun Tag allows free admission to most of the parks, campgrounds, and other recreation areas that are operated by the State of Utah. The Special Fun Tag is free of charge to veterans who are:

1. Legally Blind, which is defined as vision or 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or a field restriction of 20 degrees or less in both eyes; or
2. Non-Ambulatory, which is defined as being permanently confined to a wheelchair or a cane, crutches or mobility device, or who have lost either or both lower extremities.

**Utah State Parks and Recreation**

1594 W North Temple, Suite 116

Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Phone: 801-538-7220

Toll free: (877) UTPARKS

Fax: 801-538-7378

e-mail: [parkcomment@utah.gov](mailto:parkcomment@utah.gov)

Website: [www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov)

**BUS / TRAX REDUCED FARE CARDS:** Greatly discounted fares (65% reduced) to ride Utah Transit Authority (UTA) busses and TRAX light rail system are available for veterans meeting one of the following criteria: Forty percent (40%) or greater military service-connected disability rating by VA, in receipt of VA non-service connected pension or regardless of disability rating for Veterans & others with transportation disabilities that cause either difficulty boarding or getting off a bus/light rail system, difficulty standing in a moving bus/light rail system, difficulty reading bus/light rail system schedules & understanding information signs, difficulty hearing announcements by bus/light rail system, or difficulty hearing announcements by bus/light rail systems operators.

Persons receiving Social Security Disability benefits, SSI, or Medicare also get the UTA Reduced Fare Cards. Elderly persons age 65 and over qualify for Senior Passes at the same price as Reduced Fare Cards. To obtain UTA Reduced Fare do the following: 1. Go to either UTA location at 167 S. Main St. or 3600 S. 700 W. in SLC, 2. Complete UTA Reduced Fare Card application form, 3. Present evidence (a VA letter verifying a service connected disability rating or a non-service connected pension, 4. pay \$2.00 for UTA photo identification to incorporate on UTA Reduced Fare Card.

**FREE USE OF ARMORIES:** Any federally chartered veterans' organization shall have the right to the free use of armories owned or leased by the state; provided that the use does not interfere with the use of the armories by the National Guard or organized militia of this state. (Utah Code 71-3-1)

**Outreach Services:** The Utah Department of Veterans Affairs, through contracts with service officers from local Veterans Service Organizations, provides assistance and information to veterans and their families in filing claims for VA or other veterans' related benefits. The service officers travel the state on a monthly basis meeting with veterans, who are unable to travel to Salt Lake City, at various Department of Workforce Services locations throughout the state. For a current schedule of outreach events call (800) 894-9497 or visit <http://veterans.utah.gov>.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:** The U.S. Department of Labor offers assistance to Veterans through their Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS). This program serves America's veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing employment resources and expertise, and protecting their employment rights. The address for the U.S. Department of Labor in Utah is:

U.S. Department of Labor  
Veterans' Employment and Training Service  
140 East 300 South, Suite 209  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2333  
Phone: (801) 524-5703

**VA REGIONAL OFFICE:**

The Veterans Administration Regional Office (VARO) is responsible for the administration of Veterans' benefits for the entire state of Utah, as well as Montana and Alaska through remote management of the Anchorage and Fort Harrison Offices, to include compensation and vocational rehabilitation and employment. The VARO is located at:

VA Regional Office (VARO)  
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84113-1106  
Phone: (800) 827-1000  
Fax: (801) 326-2491

**VA SALT LAKE CITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM:**

The VA Salt Lake City Health Care System consists of several components that provide quality healthcare to Veterans throughout its assigned region. These components are the VA Medical Center; ten (10) Community based Outpatient clinics, and three (3) Vet Centers. It is recommended that you contact the VA Medical Center in Salt Lake City to determine which facility is closest to you.

**VA HOSPITAL:** The George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is a mid-sized affiliated tertiary care facility with 121 authorized active beds. It is a teaching facility, providing a full range of patient care services, with state-of-the-art technology as well as education and research. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, tertiary care, and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, dentistry, and geriatrics. The VA Medical Center is located at:

George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center  
500 Foothill Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84113  
Phone: (801) 582-1565  
Toll-free: (800) 613-4012  
Website: <http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov>

**COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS:**

There are ten (10) community based outpatient clinics in the VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System. Clinics in the VA system provide primary care services to Veterans in outlying rural communities and in areas where veteran populations are concentrated. These clinics are located at:

Ogden  
982 Chambers St.  
South Ogden, UT 84403  
Phone: (801) 479-4105

Roosevelt  
245 West 200 North  
Roosevelt, UT 84066  
Phone: (435) 725-1050

Orem  
1443 West 800 North, Suite 302  
Orem, UT 84057  
Phone: (801) 235-0953

Price

189 South 600 West, Suite B  
Price, UT 84501  
Phone: (435) 613-0342

St. George

1067 East Tabernacle, Suite 7  
St. George, UT 84770  
Phone: (435) 634-7608

West Valley

2750 South 5600 West  
West Valley City, UT 84120  
Phone: (801) 417-5734

Idaho Falls

3544 East 17th Street Suite 104  
Ammon, ID 83406  
Phone: (208) 522-2922

Pocatello

444 Hospital Way, Suite 801  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
Phone: (208) 232-6214

Elko

2719 Argent Ave. #9  
Elko, NV 89801  
Phone: (775) 738-0188

Ely

6 Steptoe Circle  
Ely, NV 89301  
Phone: (775) 289-2788 ext. 105

**HOMELESS VETERANS FELLOWSHIP:** The Homeless Veterans Fellowship provides transitional housing for up to eighteen months for veterans. They can also provide emergency food bags and personal hygiene items. Coffee and donuts are provided during open hours. The Homeless Veterans Fellowship is located at:

Homeless Veterans Fellowship

541 23rd Street  
Ogden, UT 84401  
Phone: (801) 392-7662

**VALOR HOUSE:** Located on the campus of the VA Hospital, in Salt Lake City, UT, the Valor House provides transitional housing to homeless veterans for up to two years. There are a total of 60 beds available. For more information regarding this program, please contact Rich Landward at (801) 582-1565 ext. 2703 or (800) 613-4012 ext. 2703.

**NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:** In the State of Utah, there are four (4) Veterans Service Organizations that offer assistance with processing claims for benefits. These organizations offer these services at **no charge** to Veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION

550 Foothill Drive Suite #203  
Salt Lake City, UT  
(801) 326-2380

Veterans of Foreign Wars

550 Foothill Drive Suite #203  
Salt Lake City, UT  
(801) 326-2385

Disabled American Veterans

550 Foothill Drive Suite #202  
Salt Lake City, UT  
(801) 326-2375

Military Order of the Purple Heart:

550 Foothill Drive Suite #205  
Salt Lake City, UT  
(801) 326-2471

**Employment Support of the Guard and**

**Reserve:** The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization that will develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members. ESGR informs and educates service members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities governed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

12953 South Minuteman Dr.  
Draper, UT 84020  
Phone: (801) 432-4492  
(801) 432-4536  
(801) 245-2610

Website: [www.ut.ngb.army.mil/esgr/](http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/esgr/)



**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES**  
**VETERANS REPRESENTATIVES**

**Blanding Employment Center**

Andy Platt  
544 North 100 East  
Blanding, UT 84511  
435-678-1400  
andyplatt@utah.gov

**Cedar City Employment Center**

Jake Huntsman  
176 East 2nd North  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
435-865-6560  
jakehuntsman@utah.gov

**Clearfield Employment Center**

Thomas "Bob" Wilson  
1290 East 1450 South  
Clearfield, UT 84015  
801-776-7862  
t1wilson@utah.gov

**Clearfield Employment Center**

Scott Teuscher  
1290 East 1450 South  
Clearfield, UT 84015  
801-776-7810  
steusche@utah.gov

**Provo Employment Center**

Dick Donegan  
1550 Freedom Blvd.  
Provo, UT 84604  
801-367-8432  
rdonegan@utah.gov

**Heber City/Lehi/Park City Employment Centers**

Colby Hargis  
557 West State St.  
Lehi, UT 84043  
801-616-0547  
colbyhargis@utah.gov

**Logan Employment Center**

Scott Clark  
180 North 100 West  
Logan, UT 84321  
435-792-0309  
scottjclark@utah.gov

**Metro Employment Center**

Ray Spray  
720 South 200 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
801-536-7051  
rspray@utah.gov

**Midvale Employment Center**

Garth Anderson  
7292 South State Street  
Midvale, UT 84047  
801-567-3976  
gmanderson@utah.gov

**Ogden Employment Center**

Dean Godfrey  
480 27th Street  
Ogden, UT 84401  
801-626-0372  
dgodfrey@utah.gov

**Ogden Employment Center**

David Monge  
480 27th Street  
Ogden, UT 84401  
801-626-0338  
dmonge@utah.gov

**Price Employment Center**

Tom Jewell  
475 W. Price River Drive  
Price, UT 84501  
435-636-2310  
tjewell@utah.gov

**Richfield Employment Center**

David Busk  
115 East 100 South Richfield,  
UT 84701  
435-893-0009  
dbusk@utah.gov

**South County Employment Center**

Thomas Paul  
5735 So. Redwood Road  
Taylorsville, UT 84123  
801-269-4837  
thomaspaul@utah.gov

**Spanish Fork Employment Center**

Earl Thompson  
1185 No. Chapel Dr.  
Spanish Fork, UT 84660  
801-492-4522  
ethompson@utah.gov

**St. George Employment Center**

James Emery  
162 North 400 East Bldg. B  
St. George, UT 84770  
435-986-3575  
jemery@utah.gov

**Tooele Employment Center**

Andy Swanger  
305 North Main Street #100  
Tooele, UT 84074  
435-833-7384  
aswanger@utah.gov

**West Valley Employment Center**

Sharen Welsh  
2750 S 5600 W Suite A  
West Valley City, UT 84120  
801-840-4422  
swelsh@utah.gov

**Vernal Employment Center**

Brad Anderson  
1050 W. Market Drive  
Vernal, UT 84078  
435-781-4124  
bradanderson@utah.gov